

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-11 COME-00 BIB-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 100797

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL, MX, US

SUBJECT: ROEL INQUIRY ON AVAILABILITY AND COST OF COMSAT
SATELLITE CHANNEL FOR EDUCATIONAL TV BROADCASTING

REF: MEXICO 05510

1. WE CAN OFFER NO EXPLANATION OF WHY ROEL SPOKE ABOUT
ACCESS TO COMSAT RATHER THAN INTELSAT. INTELSAT CAN PROVIDE
THE SERVICE ROEL HAS IN MIND AND HAS DONE SO SUCCESSFULLY
AND ON A COST/EFFECTIVE BASIS FOR A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.
TO LEASE A TRANSPONDER IN AN INTELSAT SATELLITE TO MEET ITS
DOMESTIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS, MEXICO SHOULD APPROACH THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTELSAT.

2. RCA AND WESTERN UNION OPERATE SATELLITES PROVIDING
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US DOMESTIC SERVICE. (COMSAT ALSO HAS A DOMESTIC SATELLITE
SYSTEM, BUT ITS CAPACITY IS LEASED ENTIRELY TO AT&T TO
AUGMENT EXISTING US TERRESTRIAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES.)
IF ROEL'S INQUIRY WAS INTENDED TO SUGGEST INTEREST IN USE
OF A US DOMESTIC SATELLITE RATHER THAN INTELSAT TO PROVIDE
THE SATELLITE CAPACITY NEEDED TO MEET MEXICAN DOMESTIC
SERVICE, MEXICO MUST CONSIDER APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIV

(C) OF INTELSAT AGREEMENTS (TIAS 7532) WHICH REQUIRES COORDINATION WITH INTELSAT TO ENSURE TECHNICAL COMPATIBILITY.

3. WE ARE AWARE OF POSSIBLE MEXICAN INTEREST IN USING A US DOMESTIC SATELLITE TO BROADCAST TELEVISION BETWEEN MEXICO AND SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATIONS IN THE US. (THIS WOULD BE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE.) THIS KIND OF SATELLITE USAGE APPEARS TO BE OUTSIDE SCOPE OF ROEL'S INQUIRY. HOWEVER, IF IT MATERIALIZES INTO A FIRM PROPOSAL, IT WOULD GIVE RISE TO A REQUIREMENT TO COORDINATE WITH INTELSAT NOT ONLY TO ENSURE TECHNICAL COMPATIBILITY BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THAT USE OF NON-INTELSAT FACILITIES WOULD NOT CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC HARM TO INTELSAT (ARTICLE XIV (D)). THE USG HAS TO DATE TAKEN NO POSITION ON WHETHER IT WOULD AGREE TO THE USE OF A US DOMESTIC SATELLITE FOR THIS PURPOSE, NOR HOW IT WOULD VIEW THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC HARM TO INTELSAT FROM SUCH USE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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